

REMARKS

Claims 1- 18 are now present in this application.

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 7 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the forgoing Amendments, it is respectfully submitted that “the stepped portion of the recess” is properly recited. As such, it is respectfully requested that this limitation now been reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 13-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (U.S. Patent 4,824,110). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hsu et al. (U.S. Patent 5,899,821). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Aizawa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,547,194). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al. in view of Aizawa et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a golf club head which includes a body made of a first material and a vibration-absorbing plate made of a second relatively lighter material than the first material. In addition to a weight member, the vibration-absorbing plate is used to absorb the vibration of the club head body. It is further characterized in that the golf club head includes a hollow chamber between the striking plate and the vibration-absorbing plate to prevent from obstructing deformation of the striking plate while striking a golf club.

By contrast, the Kobayashi patent discloses a weight member 16 made of material heavier than that of a golf club head 12. Accordingly, the Kobayashi reference fails to disclose a club head body having a vibration-absorbing plate made up of material lighter than that of the club head. However, the weight member 16 disclosed in the Kobayashi reference should not be consistent with the vibration-absorbing plate but instead with a weight such as 40 as disclosed in the present invention. Thus, the Kobayashi reference fails to suggest the golf club head as set forth in independent claim 1.

Turning to the patent of Hsu et al, this patent also discloses a head body 1 and a rear cap 2 to define the chamber 12 between the striking face 11 and the rear cap 2. It is important to note that the rear cap 2 is not used to absorb vibration of the golf club head body. It also important to note that the chamber 3

is filled with rubber 4 that may absorb deformation of the striking plate and thus reduce a striking distance of the club head. In the present invention, however, a hollow chamber is provided which will permit deformation of the striking plate and extend the striking distance.

The secondary reference Aizawa et al fails to disclose a vibration-absorbing plate and a hollow chamber. Thus, it would not overcome the deficiencies of the Kobayashi or Hsu et al. references.

It is noted that dependent claims 5 and 6 recite a golf club head including a vibration-absorbing plate having a bent perimeter wall. This will ensure that the vibration-absorbing plate is spaced apart from the striking plate after being assembled.

The prior art cited by the Examiner fails to suggest this the golf club head as recited in independent claim 1 or its dependent claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawn of all rejections and allowance of the instant application are instantly solicited.

Because the additional documents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state-of -the-art no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joe McKinney Muncy (Reg. No. 32,334) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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